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### To Our Readers

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*The Making of a Reform Rabbi: Solomon B. Freehof from Childhood to Hebrew Union College*

*Joan S. Friedman*  
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Solomon Bennett Freehof (1892–1990), a former leading member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), is remembered primarily as the great *posek* (Jewish legal decisor) of Reform Judaism and the author of eight volumes of Reform responsa. This study of his early years—his childhood in London and Baltimore as well as his time as a student and faculty member at HUC—provides insight into the personality of a distinguished rabbi and a series of snapshots of life at the College in the years preceding and following World War I.

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*The Gifts of the Jews: Ideology and Material Culture in the American Synagogue Gift Shop*

*Joellyn Wallen Zollman*  
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Reform and Conservative sisterhoods created synagogue gift shops as part of their educational programming in the late 1940s. These shops were meant to supply the tools that American Jewish women needed to practice Judaism in the home. A close examination of these objects and their display gives shape to issues of American Jewish identity and community in the postwar period.

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*Americans Who Became Israelis: Early Olim (1948–1963) Look Back*  
Maxine S. Seller  
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Based on oral histories, this article examines the variant backgrounds and motivations of American Jews who immigrated to Israel as young adults between 1948 and 1963. Whether their reasons were religious, ideological, or personal, the decision to settle in Israel was less an event than a process, often taking place over many years. While all identify themselves as Israelis, most maintain close personal and emotional ties to the United States and feel that their background affords them unique perspectives on social, political, and religious life in Israel.

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